

Testimony in Opposition to “Substitute” SB 422 - An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public
Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water

Dear chairs and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing as a concerned citizen and member of the Environmental Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ in opposition to SB 422 - *An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water*. In 1989, the Conference passed a resolution on *Solid Waste and Ecologically Sound Lifestyles* in which we raised a concern regarding the crisis of disposable plastic bottles—over 14 trillion pounds—that litter our oceans. We do not want to add to this problem with 10 million bottles produced each day at the proposed Niagara Bottling facility planned for Bloomfield. However, just as alarming is the privatization of a vital public resource in which the private rights of access and profit are put ahead of the public’s interest and right to water. Whom are Bloomfield’s elected officials serving in this give-away of rate discounts and tax abatements? Certainly not their constituents! I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 422 and protect this most vital public good.

Sincerely,

Ian Skoggard

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